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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/627,725	OYABU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Son P. Huynh	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *03* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *22 October 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-40* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-40* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *28 July 2000* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/22/2007 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claims 1-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues Ellis, Brown, and Dunn fail to teach or suggest a receiver for receiving identification information from the communication terminal device indicative of the identification thereof, wherein the receiver is positioned in a predetermined position in the home allowing an information exchange with the communication terminal device via infrared and an information exchange with each of the plurality of personal remote devices (page 25, lines 18-23). This argument is respectfully traversed.

E831 discloses wireless transceiver (e.g., an infrared transceiver) in primary user television equipment or central server located in home for receiving command signal from remote access device, user input device, one or more remote control devices from different locations of the in home network, or secondary user television equipment (see include, but are not limited to, E208: figures 2c, 2d, 3, 29, 31, 32, 36, paragraphs 0024, 0086-0087, 0094, 0194, 0196, 0199, 0208, 0214; Ellis 2005/0251827 (referred as E827), incorporate by reference in its entirety, paragraphs: 0066,0072). Ellis further discloses the primary user television equipment, central server receive identification such as PIN, access code, or password from remote control or remote access device or from secondary user television equipments- see including, but is not limited to, paragraphs 0149, 0191, 0201; E208: figures 1-4, 6a-6c, 29, 31, paragraphs 0087, 0099, , 0117, 0120-0127, 0194, 0196, 0199; 0211, 0214; E988: paragraph 0111; US 7,185,355: figure 28).

Therefore, the limitation of "a receiver for receiving identification information from the communication terminal device indicative of the identification thereof" is interpreted as IR communication device (e.g., IR transceiver) for receiving PIN, access code, or user password, etc. from remote access control or secondary user television equipment, or one or more of the remote controls at different locations in the home network indicative of the identification of user who request a particular function to be performed such as displaying program guide, setting parental control, schedule for recording, etc.;

"wherein the receiver is positioned in a predetermined position in the home allowing an information exchange with the communication terminal device via infrared

and an information exchange with each of the plurality of personal remote terminal devices" is interpreted as IR communication device (e.g., IR transceiver" in set top box of primary user television equipment or in the central server in a commercial building allowing information exchange with the remote access device, or remote control device, or secondary user television via infrared link (19, or 264), and an information exchange such as channel selection, program selection, program guide features setting, etc. with each of the plurality of remote access controls, remote control, or secondary user televisions – see include, but are not limited to, E208: figures 7, 29, 31, paragraphs 0087, 0094, 0162, 0194-0196, 0199, 02110214, 0218, and discussed above).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over E831 et al. (US 2004/0117831 A1) –hereinafter referred as E831, in view of Brown et al. (US 6,868,225) and further in view of Dunn et al. (US 6,584,613).

Note: US 2005/0028208 A1 (referred as E208), is continuation of application No. 09/,354,344, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety in E831 (see E831, paragraph 0151); and US 2005/0262542 A1- hereinafter referred as DeWeese, is incorporated by reference in its entirety in E831 (see E831, paragraph 0216).

Regarding claim 1, E831 teaches a program guide information providing device (user television equipment, or distribution facility comprises program guide server, or Internet service system – figures 1A-1D, E208: figures 1-2d, 6a-6c) adapted to communicate with a communication terminal device (e.g., remote program guide access device 24- hereinafter referred to as remote access device 24, or user television equipment in different rooms) – see E208: figures 1-2d, 29; the program guide information providing device comprising:

program guide information storing means (e.g., program guide server, and/or Internet service system, etc.) for storing program guide information indicating the contents of programs to be supplied by predetermined program supplying means (program source such as main facility, broadcast station- see include, but are not limited to, figure 1a, paragraph 0097; E208: figures 1, 2c, 2d, 6a-6c, 8);

preference information storing means for storing preference information (e.g. storage device 25 or memory at the server for storing user's preferences, or user favorite channel, parental control information, etc. – paragraph 0162), the preference information comprises information linking: of each of one or more user (e.g., users in family, buddy list, etc.) and program information preferred by the user (e.g. favorite

theme, favorite program, like, dislike, etc.) – see include, but are not limited to, figures 41,43, paragraphs 0131, 0148, 0158, 0162, 0196-0198, 0201-0202, 0208, 0211, E208: 0120-0127, 0158-0162; DeWeese: paragraphs 0085-0086, 0095);

E831 also discloses personal remote terminal device (interpreted as remote control, user input device, or remote access device including PDA, palmtop computer, handheld personal computer, display remote, touch screen remote, etc. – see figures 1a-1d, 47; E208: figure 3, paragraph 0092);

E831 further discloses the remote access device 24 can be connected to user television equipment 22 or television distribution facility 16, or both, or remote program guide server 25 (E208: paragraph 0077), and the remote access device can receive program guide information from user television equipment or remote program guide access server 25 or Internet service system 61 (see include, but is not limited to, E208: figures 1, 2a-2d, 6a, 29, paragraphs 0074-0077, 0087, 0098, 0109-0112); the remote access device or remote control also controls different devices to perform desired function at any location (see include, but are not limited to, E208: paragraphs 0074-0077, 0087, 0098, 0109-0112, 0138, 0218). Thus, the limitation "wherein the personal remote terminal device can be used at any of a plurality of program guide information providing devices" is interpreted as the remote access device or remote control can be used to connect to any of providing guide providing devices such as user television equipments, television, video recorder, television distribution facility including remote access server and/or Internet server to receive program guide information, and

"wherein the personal remote terminal device can be operated at a remote location from any of the plurality of program information providing device" is interpreted as the remote access device or remote control can be operated to control recording device, television, server, etc. while the user is at a location outside the home, or on the street, at work, or from different room, etc. – see include, but are not limited to, E208: paragraphs 0017-0019, 0087, 0218-0221);

E831 discloses wireless transceiver (e.g., an infrared transceiver) in primary user television equipment or central server located in home for receiving command signal from remote access device, user input device, one or more remote control devices from different locations of the in home network, or secondary user television equipment (see include, but are not limited to, E208: figures 2c, 2d, 3, 29, 31, 32, 36, paragraphs 0024, 0086-0087, 0094, 0194, 0196, 0199, 0208, 0214; Ellis 2005/0251827 (referred as E827), incorporate by reference in its entirety, paragraphs: 0066,0072). Ellis further discloses the primary user television equipment, central server receive identification such as PIN, access code, or password from remote control or remote access device or from secondary user television equipments- see including, but is not limited to, paragraphs 0149, 0191, 0201; E208: figures 1-4, 6a-6c, 29, 31, paragraphs 0087, 0099, , 0117, 0120-0127, 0194, 0196, 0199; 0211, 0214; E988: paragraph 0111; US 7,185,355: figure 28).

Therefore, the limitation of "a receiver for receiving identification information from the communication terminal device indicative of the identification thereof" is interpreted as IR communication device (e.g., IR transceiver) for receiving PIN, access code, or

user password, etc. from remote access control or secondary user television equipment, or one or more of the remote controls at different locations in the home network indicative of the identification of user who request a particular function to be performed such as displaying program guide, setting parental control, schedule for recording, etc.;

"wherein the receiver is positioned in a predetermined position in the home allowing an information exchange with the communication terminal device via infrared and an information exchange with each of the plurality of personal remote terminal devices" is interpreted as IR communication device (e.g., IR transceiver" in set top box of primary user television equipment or in the central server in a commercial building allowing information exchange with the remote access device, or remote control device, or secondary user television via infrared link (19, or 264), and an information exchange such as channel selection, program selection, program guide features setting, etc. with each of the plurality of remote access controls, remote control, or secondary user televisions – see include, but are not limited to, E208: figures 7, 29, 31, paragraphs 0087, 0094, 0162, 0194-0196, 0199, 02110214, 0218, and discussed above).

E831 further discloses equipment television equipment and/or television distribution facility generates an appropriate program guide display screen/remote access interactive television program guide screen, according to user preference profiles, remote access device information, and send to the remote access device (24) – see including, but is not limited to, figures 3-11, E208: paragraphs 0073,-0074, 0102, 0110-0111, 0122-0126). Inherently, the equipment user television equipment and/or television distribution facility comprises: a searching means for reading from the

preference information storing means the preference information, searching programs matching the preferences of the user from the program guide information based on the read preference information, and generating searched program guide information (appropriate program guide display screen) comprising the searched programs (e.g. favorite programs); and transmitting means (communication device connected to link 19) for transmitting the searched program guide information to the communication terminal device (remote access device 24) so that only selected content are provided and displayed to the user;

wherein a program selection apparatus (e.g., processing circuitry 54 at the remote access device or control circuitry/tuner at equipment 14 – E208: figures 4-5) receives program selection information upon selection of one of said programs listed in the program guide information (e.g., processing circuitry/control circuitry receives program guide selection information upon selection of programs displayed on display screen of remote access device 24, to watch, to record, etc., via user interface 52– E208: figure 5, paragraphs 0092, 0107, 0154).

E831 also discloses the list of programs displayed on screen of remote access device (24) including user favorite programs according previous user preferences or "favorites" setting (E208: paragraphs 0122-0126). Inherently, the list of programs in the program guide is previously created and stored by the user (based on user preferences or "favorite" settings) and the previously created and stored list of program in the program guide is remotely accessed by the user upon request on the communication

terminal device (the list of programs is remotely accessed upon user request on the remote access device 24 – E208: paragraphs 0120-0126).

However, E831 does not specifically disclose the preference information comprises information linking a corresponding personal remote terminal device, wherein the preference information is stored in a manner correlated with a telephone number of the personal terminal device of each of the one or more users.

Brown discloses each person has a personal remote control. The advantage to having individual remote controls is that parental controls, personal preferences, and bookmarks are automatically activated when each remote control is used. The CPU 713 notes that bookmark belongs to a certain encoded remote control... The remote control's command signal is received, the remote control identifier is processed and the preferences on the storage device is checked for any associated files correspond with the received remote control's identification....(see col. 15, line 55-col. 16, line 37). Thus, the preference information must comprises information (e.g. personal remote control identification, or encoded remote control) linking a corresponding personal remote terminal device (personal remote control) so that parental controls, personal preferences, bookmarks are automatically activated in response to a command signal received from the personal remote control. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify E831 to use the teaching as taught by Brown for the advantage in parental controls, personal

references, and bookmarks are automatically activated when each remote control is used (col. 15, lines 58-63).

However, E831 in view of Brown does not explicitly disclose the preference information is stored in a manner correlated with a telephone number of the personal remote terminal device of each of the one or more users.

Dunn discloses the server captures the dial string including the caller ID, checks the caller ID against a subscriber/viewer profile and maps the caller ID to the cable company providing service to the viewer/subscriber (see col. 2, lines 17-30). It is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the "ID caller" comprises telephone number to identify the phone number of the caller and the subscriber profile stored in manner correlated with the telephone number (in "ID caller") of remote terminal device (e.g., telephone) so that the "caller ID" is matched. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify E831 in view of Brown with the teaching as taught by Dunn in order to provide an alternative way to quickly identify user (e.g., based on phone number) thereby improve flexibility in identification of subscribers.

Regarding claim 2, E831 in view of Brown and Dunn discloses a device as discussed in the rejection of claim 1. E831 further discloses receiving means for receiving programs supplied from program supplying means (e.g., receiving device of user television equipment and/or television distribution facility for receiving programs from program

sources such as main facility distribution - see include, but are not limited to, figure 1a, E208: figures 1-2d, 8-9. paragraphs 0069, 0078).

Regarding claim 3, the limitations of the program guide information providing system as claimed correspond to the limitations of the program guide information providing device as claimed in claim 1, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 1. E831 further discloses the communication terminal device (remote access device 24) comprises:

transmitting means (transmitting device of communications device 58) for transmitting to the guide information providing device (e.g. television distribution facility and/or user television equipment) the identification information associated with the communication terminal device (e.g. user identification who uses remote access device to send command, address of mote access device so that the requested data can be received, etc. – see include, but are not limited to, E208: figures 1-2b, 5, paragraphs 0120-0127);

receiving means for receiving the searched program guide information transmitted from the program guide information providing device (receiving device of communication device 58 for receiving appropriate/filtered interactive program guide from the user television equipment and/or television distribution facility – see include, but are not limited to, E208: figure 5, paragraphs 0092-0096, 0120-0126);

notifying means for notifying the user of the received searched program guide information (display for displaying the appropriate/filter program guide screen – see include, but are not limited to, figures 3-10, E208: paragraphs 0120-0126, figures 7-8);

transmitting means (in user interface) for transmitting to a program selection apparatus (processing circuitry 54) program selection information (to record, to watch, etc.) upon selection of one of the program lists in the program guide information (see including, but is not limited to, E208: figure 5, paragraphs 0092, 0107, 0154).

Regarding claim 4, the additional limitations as claimed correspond to the additional limitations as claimed in claim 2, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 2.

Regarding claim 5, E831 teaches an information receiving device (see include, but are not limited to, figures 1a-1c; E208: television distribution facility 16 in figures 2a, 2c, or user television equipment 22 in figures 2b, 2d, 6a-6d) adapted to communicate with a communication terminal device (remote program guide access device 24-hereinafter referred to as remote access device 24) – see E208: figures 1-2d, 6a-6c; the program guide information receiving device comprising:

program guide information storing means (e.g., program guide server or storage at user television equipment 22 – E208: figure 2c or par. 0083) for storing program guide information indicating the contents of programs to be supplied by predetermined

program supplying means (program source e.g., main facility, broadcast station- E208: figures 1, 2c, 2d, 8);

preference information storing means for storing preference information (e.g. storage device 25 or memory at the server for storing user's preferences, or user favorite channel, parental control information, etc. – paragraph 0162), the preference information comprises information linking: of each of one or more user (e.g., users in family, buddy list, etc.) and program information preferred by the user (e.g. favorite theme, favorite program, like, dislike, etc.) – see include, but are not limited to, figures 41,43, paragraphs 0131, 0148, 0158, 0162, 0196-0198, 0201-0202, 0208, 0211, E208: 0120-0127, 0158-0162; DeWeese: paragraphs 0085-0086, 0095);

E831 also discloses personal remote terminal device (interpreted as remote control, remote access device including PDA, palmtop computer, handheld personal computer, display remote, touch screen remote, etc. – see figures 1a-1d, 47; E208: figure 3, paragraph 0092);

E831 further discloses the remote access device 24 can be connected to user television equipment 22 or television distribution facility 16, or both, or remote program guide server 25 (E208: paragraph 0077), and the remote access device can receive program guide information from user television equipment or remote program guide access server 25 or Internet service system 61 (see include, but is not limited to, E208: figures 1, 2a-2d, 6a, paragraphs 0074-0077, 0098, 0109-0112); the remote access device or remote control also controls different devices to perform desired function at any location (see include, but are not limited to, E208: paragraphs 0074-0077, 0098,

0109-0112, 0138, 0218). Thus, the limitation "wherein the personal remote terminal device can be used at any of a plurality of program guide information providing devices" is interpreted as the remote access device can be used to connect to any of providing guide providing devices such as user television equipment, television, video recorder, television distribution facility including remote access server and/or Internet server to receive program guide information, and

"wherein the personal remote terminal device can be operated at a remote location from any of the plurality of program information providing device" is interpreted as the remote access device can be operated to control recording device, television, server, etc. while the user is at a location outside the home, or on the street, at work, etc. – see include, but are not limited to, paragraphs 0017-0019);

E831 discloses wireless transceiver (e.g., an infrared transceiver) in primary user television equipment or central server located in home for receiving command signal from remote access device, user input device, one or more remote control devices from different locations of the in home network, or secondary user television equipment (see include, but are not limited to, E208: figures 2c, 2d, 3, 29, 31, 32, 36, paragraphs 0024, 0086-0087, 0094, 0194, 0196, 0199, 0208, 0214; Ellis 2005/0251827 (referred as E827), incorporate by reference in its entirety, paragraphs: 0066,0072). Ellis further discloses the primary user television equipment, central server receive identification such as PIN, access code, or password from remote control or remote access device or from secondary user television equipments- see including, but is not limited to, paragraphs 0149, 0191, 0201; E208: figures 1-4, 6a-6c, 29, 31, paragraphs 0087, 0099,

, 0117, 0120-0127, 0194, 0196, 0199; 0211, 0214; E988: paragraph 0111; US 7,185,355: figure 28).

Therefore, the limitation of "a receiver for receiving identification information from the communication terminal device indicative of the identification thereof" is interpreted as IR communication device (e.g., IR transceiver) for receiving PIN, access code, or user password, etc. from remote access control or secondary user television equipment, or one or more of the remote controls at different locations in the home network indicative of the identification of user who request a particular function to be performed such as displaying program guide, setting parental control, schedule for recording, etc.;

"wherein the receiver is positioned in a predetermined position in the home allowing an information exchange with the communication terminal device via infrared and an information exchange with each of the plurality of personal remote terminal devices" is interpreted as IR communication device (e.g., IR transceiver" in set top box of primary user television equipment or in the central server in a commercial building allowing information exchange with the remote access device, or remote control device, or secondary user television via infrared link (19, or 264), and an information exchange such as channel selection, program selection, program guide features setting, etc. with each of the plurality of remote access controls, remote control, or secondary user televisions – see include, but are not limited to, E208: figures 7, 29, 31, paragraphs 0087, 0094, 0162, 0194-0196, 0199, 02110214, 0218, and discussed above).

E831 further discloses (program guide server 25 (E208: figures 2a, 2c), or user television equipment 22, E208: figures 2b, 2d) generates an appropriate program guide

display screen/remote access interactive television program guide screen, according to user preference profiles, remote access device information, and send to the remote access device (24) – see including, but is not limited to, E208: paragraphs 0073,-0074, 0102, 0110-0111, 0122-0126). Inherently, the equipment television distribution facility (16) or user television equipment (22) comprises: a searching means for reading from the preference information storing means the preference information, searching programs matching the preferences of the user from the program guide information based on the read preference information, and generating searched program guide information (appropriate program guide display screen) comprising the searched programs (e.g. favorite programs); and transmitting means for transmitting the searched program guide information to a remote commander (transmitting device in television distribution facility 16 transmitted filtered program guide information (e.g., filtered by program guide server 25) to user television equipment 22 – E208: figures 2a, 2b; or transmitting device in user television equipment 22 transmits filtered television program guide to television distribution facility equipment 16 – E208: figures 2b, 2d, 6a-6c);

the remote commander having first transmitting/receiving means for directly exchange information between the receiving means and the transmitting means, and second transmitting/receiving means for exchanging information via the communication terminal device and the communicating means (the user television equipment having first transmitting/receiving means for directly exchange information between the receiving means and transmitting means of the television distribution facility (16) and second transmitting/receiving means for exchanging information via the remote access

device 24 and the communicating means of the user television equipment – E208: figures 2a, 2c; or the television distribution facility 16 having first transmitting/receiving means for directly exchange information between the receiving means and transmitting means of the user television equipment and second transmitting/receiving means for exchanging information via the remote access device and the communicating means of the television distribution facility – E208: figures 2b, 2d, 6a-6c);

For limitations that correspond to limitations of claim 1 are analyzed as discussed in the rejection of claim 1.

Regarding claim 6, E831 in view of Brown and Dunn teaches an information-receiving device as discussed in the rejection of claim 5. E831 further discloses user input device such as user interface 46 for recording to recording device such as secondary storage device 32, optional digital storage device 31, storage 56, or program guide server 25, for recording program specified by the remote access device 24 from a plurality of program supplied from video source (e.g., main facility- see including, but is not limited to, E208: paragraphs, 0089, 0163- 0164) is interpreted as recording control means for recording to recording means (storage device 31, storage device 32, server 25, or storage 56) program specified by the communication terminal device (remote access 24) from a plurality of programs supplied from the program supply means.

Regarding claim 7, the limitations of a remote operation system as claimed correspond to the limitations as claimed in information receiving device in claim 5, and are analyzed

as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 5. E831 further discloses the communication terminal device (remote access device 24, E208: figures 2a-2d) comprises:

transmitting means (transmitting device of communications device 58) for transmitting to the remote commander (user television equipment in E208: figures 2a, 2c or transmission facility 16 in E208: figures 2b, 2d, 6a-c) the identification information associated with the communication terminal device (e.g. user identification who uses remote access device to send command, address of mote access device so that the requested data can be received, etc. – E208: figures 1-2d, 5, paragraphs 0120-0127);

receiving means for receiving the searched program guide information transmitted from the remote commander (receiving device of communication device 58 for receiving appropriate/filtered interactive program guide from the user television equipment 22 in E208: figures 2a, 2c, or from distribution facility (16) in E208: figures 2b, 2d, 6a-c – see also figure 5, paragraphs 0092-0096, 0120-0126);

notifying means for notifying the user of the received searched program guide information (display for displaying the appropriate/filter program guide screen – E208: paragraphs 0120-0126, figures 7-8);

transmitting means (in user interface) for transmitting to a program selection apparatus (processing circuitry 54/control circuitry) program selection information (to record, to watch, etc.) upon selection of one of the program lists in the program guide information (see including, but is not limited to, E208: figures 4-5, paragraphs 0092, 0107, 0154).

Regarding claim 8, the additional limitations as claimed correspond to the additional limitations as claimed in claim 6, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 6.

Regarding claims 9-16, the limitations of the method as claimed correspond to the limitations of the device/system as claims in claims 1-8, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claims 1-8.

Regarding claim 17, E831 in view of Brown and Dunn teaches a device as discussed in the rejection of claim 1. E831 further teaches the preference information storing means is located adjacent the program selection apparatus (e.g. preference information such as user's preferences, user profiles information, user selection information of program to be recorded, user selection of favorite program, etc., is stored storage device at user television equipment or distribution facility, program guide server that is located in user television equipment or distribution facility which control program selection apparatus such as control circuitry or program guide server – see include, but are not limited to, E208: figures 2c-5; paragraphs 0117-0118, 0123-0126).

Regarding claim 18, E831 in view of Brown and Dunn teaches a device as discussed in the rejection of claim 1. E831 further teaches the preference information storing means is located at a remote location apart from the program selection apparatus (e.g.

preference information such as user preferences, user selection of program to record, favorite program, etc. is stored in storage device at equipment 17, program guide server is apart from the processing circuitry – see include, but are not limited to, E208: figures 2c-5; paragraphs 0117-0118, 0123-0126).

Regarding claim 19, E831 in view of Brown and Dunn teaches a device as discussed in the rejection of claim 18. E831 further teaches the preference information is retrieved over a public network (remote access link 19 includes telephone line, a computer network, etc.– E208: paragraphs 0076, 0086, 0090,0094, 0127).

Regarding claim 20, E831 in view of Brown and Dunn teaches a device as discussed in the rejection of claim 18. E831 further discloses a television distribution facility 16 includes Internet service system 61 for storing preference information for filtering data before transmitting to the remote access device (E208: paragraph 0126). The Internet service system 61 and program guide server is the same device or system. The Internet service system is a web server for storing preference information for filtering data before transmitting to the remote access device (E208: figures 6a-6c; paragraphs 0097-0101, 0126). Inherently, the preference information is stored at a website (in internet service system 61 and program guide server) for filtering data according preference information before transmitting the data to the remote access device.

Regarding claims 21-40, the additional limitations as claimed corresponding to the additional limitations as claimed in claims 17-20, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claims 17-20.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nakata et al. (US 2006/0271993 A1) discloses information signal transmission system and remote control device for the same.

Liebenow (US 6,530,083 B1) discloses system for personalized settings.

Knowles et al. (US 6,505,348) discloses multiple interactive electronic program guide system and methods.

Nickum (US 6,721,954) discloses personal preferred viewing using electronic program guide.

Ho (US 6,222,307 B1) discloses multiple room signal distribution system.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son P. Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-7295. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher S. Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Son P. Huynh

December 3, 2007